

I support media diversity

Dear Senator McCain,

Please stop Rupert Murdoch from Taking Over the Media Universe. Please don't let them do to television and newspapers what Clear Channel did to radio. This is the most important issue of our time.

The Federal Communications Commission is about to pass sweeping new rules that would dramatically alter the media landscape in the United States. The proposal would gut long-standing rules to slow and limit the growth of media monopolies and would allow media conglomerates to own all of the major media outlets in one city, including a dominant newspaper, television station, radio station and cable outlet.

The FCC is the federal agency that is charged with regulating the public airwaves on behalf of the American public. Yet, FCC Chairman Michael Powell is pushing ahead with a June 2 vote without any public comment. The FCC proposal had been kept secret until two commission members forced the proposal into the open. The public deserves that such far-reaching changes to the rules governing media ownership be publicly discussed and debated.

Last time similar rules were changed over 1,000 radio stations changed hands, local news and music play lists were decimated, and two companies, Clear Channel and CBS radio, came to own nearly half of the radio stations in the entire country.

I urge you to speak out and to call on FCC Chairman Powell to postpone or cancel the scheduled June 2 vote until there can be a significant public discussion and debate on the sweeping changes being proposed to media ownership rules.

Please let me know how you intend to proceed on this issue.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Brooke